

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., in the library at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Bea Antenore
Raymond Chavarria
William Marmion
Drew Satariano

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Bert Srack, Acting Manager, Community Recreation Services
Diane Lewis, Manager, Community Enrichment Programs
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent of Contracts & Revenue Development
Zadie Cannon, Administrative Analyst
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: Roy Hubbs
Barbara Hubbs
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2004

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to approve the September 19, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – LINDA GREENE

President Kozaites stated that Ms. Greene was not able to attend, that the Sammy Award would be presented in November.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR OCTOBER

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Ms. Christine (Tina) Burton as Business Operations Bureau's Administrative Employee of the Month for October. Ms. Jane Grobaty said that Ms. Burton spends so much of her time seeing that other employees get recognized, such as putting out the employee newsletter, worrying about who hasn't been in the news recently, preparing the cover of the Commission report, and she is also on the Employee Recognition Committee.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that Ms. Burton e-mails him all the time with press releases and is very efficient and proficient.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Mr. Faoliu Utoafili as Community Recreation Services Bureau's Field Operations Employee of the Month for October. Mr. Jack Deaton said that Mr. Utoafili has been with the Department for three years and works at the North PAL facility, he is also a youth sports coach and does a lot of the technical work, volunteers at the Freeman PAL facility helping them with murals, and volunteers at the 9th Street PAL in the boxing program.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Mr. Sonny Contrano as Maintenance Operations Bureau's Lead/Supervisory Employee of the Month for October. Ms. Theresa Maceyka said that Mr. Contrano is one of the best employees. He is a hard working, conscientious, and responsible employee who leads by example. She said that he is a big reason for the success at Blair Field.

Mr. Ramon Arevalo explained that Blair Field is the premier baseball field in Long Beach and Mr. Contrano has been put in charge of taking care of that field.

Ms. Bert Srack introduced Ms. Diane Lewis, the new Bureau Manager for Community Enrichment Programs. Ms. Srack explained that with splitting the Community Recreation Services Bureau back into two bureaus, Ms. Lewis's responsibilities would include the Youth Services Division, Intervention/Prevention Programs, Special Services, Park Rangers, the Nature Center, and the Historical Sites. Ms. Srack said that Ms. Lewis comes to us with a lot of varied experience from the City of Madera.

Ms. Gwendolyn Parker introduced Ms. Zadie Cannon, Administrative Analyst for the Contract and Revenue Development Division of Business Operations. She has been with the City for eight years, in the Police Department, Financial Management, the City Auditor's Office, and now with Parks, Recreation and Marine.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-1001

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau Manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that there was no meeting.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the year-end statement is included in the packet. He said that expenditures were a little under budget at 94.3% and total revenue was also a little under budget at 97.6%.

Vice President Saltzgaver asked about status of the fee waiver policy. Ms. Parker responded that staff is continuing to work on it and should be bringing it before the Commission the first of the year.

Mr. Hester stated that the City would be doing an extensive fee study of all City fees. He said that the consultant took a look at the Department's fees first and made recommendations for increases, which have been done. He stated that the consultant would also be looking at the other departments and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine would be very involved in that study. He said that Geoff Hall would be the Department lead on the fee study project.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee met this morning. He also stated that the incident statistics were included in the packet, which they discussed. He said that they discussed the cut back of the Intervention/Prevention office and only the Attitude Crew remains. Commissioner Marmion went over their discussion of the Park Ranger training and the hiring of additional Park Rangers.

Commissioner Marmion stated that one of the Park Rangers, Henry Ramirez, suffered an accident and as a result, had to have his foot amputated. He requested a letter be drafted from the Parks and Recreation Commission thanking Park Ranger Henry Ramirez for his service to the Department and wishing him well.

It was moved by Commissioner Antenore and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria that a letter be sent to Henry Ramirez from the Parks and Recreation Commission thanking him for his service to the Department and wishing him well. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Chavarria, Chair

Commissioner Chavarria stated that the Committee would meet next month.

- E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Saltzgaver, Chair

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this morning. He said that the Department has approximately \$39 million in Capital Improvement projects for the coming year and of that, \$1.7 million is local money and the rest is from grants. He reviewed the major projects.

Commissioner Antenore asked about the status of 55th Way Park. Mr. Hester responded that the Police Sub-Station at Scherer Park has been occupied. He said that the State and the City have been in discussion over the timing for 55th Way Park to open. He said that there have been some land issues and neighborhood issues with the park site, which have delayed the project.

Mr. Hester stated that City Council requested Department staff to report on proposed locations for universally accessible playgrounds, which are playgrounds that any child can use. He said that these playgrounds go beyond ADA accessibility. He said that this item would be coming before the Parks and Recreation Commission after approval by the City Council.

Commissioner Marmion stated that Susan Rivard, the Principal of the new school near Cesar Chavez Park, would like to give the Parks and Recreation Commission a tour of the school, when they open.

- F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the Committee would meet tomorrow.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2004

Commission Chavarria commented that staff works very hard in providing services to the community.

Commissioner Satariano commented that staff gets a lot done in the course of a month, as seen in the report.

Commissioner Marmion stated that he is looking forward to the RiverLink plan update in November.

B. MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Shippey commended Ramon Arevalo, Jerry Bailey, and the staff who helped with the last minute items for the Lone Sailor Memorial statue.

Mr. Hester stated that the Skylinks Golf Course Opening Ceremony would be held on October 29 at 11:30 a.m., with a golf tournament held after. He said that Terry Lortz, the Superintendent of Golf Operations, has really helped to move this project along. He stated that there were a lot of issues with this project and he was at the site every day to make sure it would be completed.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. PETITION AGAINST PROPOSED COURT FEE INCREASES AT EL DORADO AND BILLIE JEAN KING TENNIS CENTERS

President Kozaites stated that a petition was received regarding the tennis court fee increases.

Mr. Hester stated that an individual expressed concerns about tennis court fees at Billie Jean King and El Dorado Tennis Centers and that there was a representative from the group who signed the petition to speak on the issue.

Mr. Rick Terrell said that the tennis players are upset at a very large fee increase. He said that it was very hard to analyze what was fair according to the fee survey. He stated that some of the facilities on the survey are championship facilities. He challenged Cathy Jacobson Guzy to look for other ways to increase fees before going for a 50% fee increase, which impacts the people who signed the petition and others. He suggested a non-resident fee or a reservations card, which could be sold to residents for \$5 every six months and non-residents for \$10. He said that it was worth reconsidering the increase, which is a 50% increase. He brought up a concern of another person, which was that prime time starts early and may disadvantage young players

who want to play in the summer hours before dusk. He said that this is not the first cost increase; there have been other increases. He said that the first one he recalls is the surcharge for the new lighting. Mr. Terrell said that someone also wanted him to mention that there is still a problem with the lights at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center, which are difficult to aim.

President Kozaites said that when the Finance and Appeals Committee evaluated the fees, they took all comparables into consideration. He said he would like to hear from Cathy Jacobson Guzy.

Ms. Guzy stated that she surveyed 22 public tennis centers from Los Angeles to San Diego. She said that Long Beach was second from the lowest, with Lakewood being the lowest. She said that for what Long Beach has to offer with the new improvements, \$300,000 of improvements, they are really proud of the facilities and what is offered. She stated that the cost of wages and insurance has also risen. Ms. Guzy mentioned that she has only been approached by one person complaining about the increase. She said that most people have been happy for the low cost of playing tennis and of all the programs offered. She stated that she has not seen any decrease in attendance at the courts.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he likes the idea of resident cards. He would consider this petition as an appeal and recommend that the Finance and Appeals Committee hold a meeting on this issue and take another look at it.

Mr. Hester stated that he would have to get a clarification because the fee increases were approved in June, so it would probably be past any appeal period. He said that he would be very supportive of bringing this to the Finance and Appeals Committee and it would also give Ms. Guzy an opportunity to provide detailed information about her increased operating cost, wages, insurance, workers compensation, etc. He mentioned that the light fee, which was added, was then retracted. Mr. Hester stated that resident cards were not considered in the past because tennis was not that popular in past years. He said that the Department's priority is on the residents of the city, but just like on the golf courses, he does not want to downplay the importance of non-residents. He said that play on the golf courses is 65% non-residents and you don't want to drive the non-residents away. He said that the Department would then have to charge a higher fee to residents to make up for fewer non-residents playing golf.

Mr. Hester said that he would have Gwendolyn Parker help clarify the survey. He said that Ms. Guzy's commitment is to the youth of the city and she has done a lot of things for the kids in the city for free. He stated that she ran a free tennis program for inner-city kids with the NAACP.

Mr. Roy Hubbs stated that he plays tennis on Saturdays and the fees went up for an hour and a half play from \$2.25 to \$3.50. He said that he now goes to Lakewood to play tennis.

Ms. Barbara Hubbs asked what happened to the Tennis Advisory Committee. Mr. Hester responded that the Department staff persons who served on that Commission left the City. He said that when those employees are replaced, the Committee will return.

Commissioner Marmion asked if notices were posted for the fee hearing in June. Mr. Hester responded yes, notices were posted. Commissioner Marmion stated that no one attended the fee hearing in June.

Commissioner Marmion stated that as part of the budget negotiations, the Commission discussed certain revenue enhancements that would offset some of the cuts that would happen in the Department. He said that if tennis fees were to be cut, the money would have to be found somewhere else.

Commissioner Marmion said that Mr. Hester discussed earlier in the meeting a major fee study being done and the consultant would want to examine the whole policy for residents and non-residents. He said that all this information should be used in the next round of fee establishment for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Hester stated that when the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the fees, technically, the Department could have implemented the fees immediately, which they did not. He said that they waited to roll it in with the new budget year, the first part of October. He said that in fairness to the community, they didn't see the fee increases until they started paying them, even though posted at the facilities.

President Kozaites stated that the Commission does what is legal, as advised by the City Attorney. He said the Commission evaluated this issue through Committee, it was recommended for a fee increase, they conducted a public hearing, and no one came. He said that they are willing to refer the issue back to Committee, not to reevaluate the fee increase, because it was well-studied and well evaluated by staff, but to educate the users of the tennis facilities. He said that they would give the public an opportunity to come to the Committee meeting to discuss these issues and discuss the notices.

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to refer this issue to the Finance and Appeals Committee and come back with any recommendations to the November 18, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Kozaites stated that there was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. ENDORSEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS AT STEARNS CHAMPIONS PARK AND REQUEST TO NAME THE PLAZA AT THE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD AFTER TIM SALMON, PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER

Mr. Shippey stated that as part of the Angels out-reach. Tim Salmon, who used to play at the park, asked to help improve Stearns Champions Park, similar to what was done at Silverado Park. Mr. Shippey said that they went through a process and developed a plan to improve the park. He stated that they would like to also name the plaza between the two fields the Tim Salmon Plaza.

Mr. Eschen stated that a federal grant would be used to fund replacement of the restrooms.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to approve the proposed improvements at Stearns Champions Park and recommend to the City Council that the plaza between the two fields be named Tim Salmon Plaza. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

Bob Lamond commented that it would be nice for the City to recognize Betty Davenport for the part she played in the Lone Sailor Memorial project. He said that organizing the project, which was similar to herding cats, would not have been completed without her.

Mr. Hester stated that he would check on possibly doing something during the December 11 opening ceremony of the statue.

B. STAFF

Ms. Srack invited the Commissioners to a Dance Rally at MacArthur Park on October 23, from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Hester stated that the Commissioners would be invited to the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Rotary Centennial Park on November 3, at 3:00 p.m.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chavarria stated that the Chair and Vice Chair made a plea to the Commissioners to try and make sure that at least one Commissioner attend the various Department events. He said that he doesn't ever see the Commissioners names in the "Directions" newsletter, so he doesn't know if anyone attends. He said it would be nice to have their name recognized to show that they are out in the community supporting the Department.

Commissioner Satariano said that he perceives overlaps in the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Marine Advisory Commission and he would suggest that each Commission's Executive Committee meet from time to time, either formally or informally.

Mr. Hester stated that he meets with the Marine Advisory Commission Executive Committee and staff would set up a meeting with them and the Parks and Recreation Commission's Executive Committee.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that in the last year they have attempted to improve communication between the Commissions and he would like to see more interaction between all the Commissions.

President Kozaites suggested that staff agendize the Parks and Recreation Commission Executive Committee at the next Marine Advisory Commission Executive Committee meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at the Long Beach Museum of Art, in the Boeing Classroom in the Miller Education Center, 2300 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine